

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1988CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT  
202-225-3452

## RAHALL SAYS RURAL APPROPRIATIONS GOOD FOR W.VA.

**WASHINGTON** - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall called the passage of the \$44.1 billion appropriations bill for Rural Development, Agriculture and Related Agencies a necessity in the further development of West Virginia and other rural areas.

"This measure appropriates funds for many worthwhile programs that provide critical assistance to those in our society facing unfortunate circumstances," Rahall said. "Many of the needy in West Virginia participate in these programs while we in the State desperately seek to solve the economic woes facing us."

Included in the bill is \$9.3 billion for the Farmers Home Administration, \$641,900,000 for the Soil Conservation Service and \$4.6 billion for child nutrition programs. Rahall told House members of the importance of these programs to West Virginia.

"The Farmers Home Administration is responsible for our country's rural development system, including housing and water and sewer loans and grants. This is extremely important in West Virginia where many areas do not have adequate water supplies and where sewage many times is disposed in a manner that may pose health threats," Rahall stated. "The Soil Conservation Service is an indispensable program in W.Va., working with conservation districts, watershed groups and Federal and State agencies which work to conserve soil and water resources and reduce damage by floods and sedimentation."

Rahall stressed the vital importance of the Domestic Food Programs in West Virginia as well as the Special Supplemental food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Food Stamp Program.

"The child nutrition program makes the difference between a happy, productive, well-fed child who participates fully in school activities, and a restless, listless, hungry child who cannot concentrate on his studies because of the gnawing ache in his stomach," Rahall said.

Rahall told House members that in recent weeks he has received many letters regarding the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and how vital it is to many people in Southern West Virginia.

"I have received over 1,000 letters in the past few weeks from recipients of TEFAP telling me how vital this program is in their lives," Rahall stated. "This bill will fund state grants for distributing surplus agricultural commodities to those who literally cannot provide them for their families. It is unfathomable that the Reagan Administration would request no funding for this program."